

INFORMATION REPORT

SECRET

25X1A

COUNTRY Argentina

SUSJECT Reactions in Argentine Slav Colony to Tito-
Cominform Schism

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1. The master Slav Communist organization in Argentina, Union Eslava, and the two principal Yugoslav Communist organizations, Consejo Central Yugoslavia and Yugoslavia Libre, which control the great majority of Yugoslav Communists in Argentina, have aligned themselves with the Cominform as opposed to Tito.

2. The Consejo Central Yugoslavia, at a recent meeting of its plenum, supported the Cominform by a vote of 64 to 4, with two delegates abstaining. Similar meetings have been held recently by Union Eslava and Yugoslavia Libre at which both backed the Cominform.

3. The rank and file of Yugoslav Communists in Argentina is split, although Yugoslav youth groups tend to sympathize with Tito (cf. [REDACTED] 25X1A

4. One or more employees within the Yugoslav Legation are allegedly in secret contact with Cominform and Soviet supporters. Individuals mentioned to source in this connection are Press Attaché Jaklar Russo (cf. [REDACTED] 25X1A
Consular clerk Danica Cupic (cf. [REDACTED] and First Secretary Bogdan

25X1A Popovic ([REDACTED] Comment: Another source previously described Popovic as being an individual whom the Soviets had no hopes of converting to their side.) 25X1A

5. The rift has illustrated Yugoslav Minister Franc Pirc's weakness and lack of influence among Communist-controlled groups in Argentina and the strength of Yugoslav Communist leaders who hold the key positions in Slav Communist groups. [REDACTED] Comment: Typical of such leaders are Rude Mikulicic and 25X1A
Pedro Zanetic, officials of the Consejo Central Yugoslavia, who have publicly voiced their opposition to Tito. However, Antonio Paparella, President of Yugoslavia Libre, appears to be pro-Tito despite pressure from Cominform supporters within that organization to bring him into their fold.)

6. Pirc is now attempting to strengthen his position by appealing to the wealthy Yugoslav immigrants who remain loyal to Tito. The recently signed commercial treaty between Argentina and Yugoslavia somewhat favors him. He is also aided by a wealthy Slovene, Srecko Ferfoglia, who has resided in Argentina for the past 20 years. Ferfoglia, who is frequently seen with Pirc and who is said to be his commercial adviser, owns a printing establishment, together with three other Slovenes, named Gutenberg, located in Buenos

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Aires. Ferfoglia is on good relations with Argentine government authorities, especially with officials in the Ministry of Public Works.

7. Relations between the Yugoslav Legation and the Soviet Embassy are definitely cool as a result of anti-Tito utterances by several Soviet officials. Pirc, who formerly visited the Soviet Embassy frequently, maintains no contact with Soviet diplomats at the present time. As an indication of the suspicion with which the Yugoslav Legation regards the other Soviet satellite missions, source cites the recent instance of an official of the Polish Legation, Kasimierz Korczynski, visiting the Yugoslav Legation to seek information on Yugoslav-Argentine trade negotiations. Korczynski was refused any data by the Yugoslavs.

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